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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,758	03/31/2004	Gansha Wu	ITL1097US (P18492)	7739
21906 7590 06/25/2008 TROP PRUNER & HU, PC 1616 S. VOSS ROAD, SUITE 750 HOUSTON, TX 77057-2631				
EXAMINER WEI, ZHENG				
ART UNIT 2192		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 06/25/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/814,758

Applicant(s)

WU ET AL.

Examiner

ZHENG WEI

Art Unit

2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11, 13-21 and 23-30 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11, 13-21 and 23-30 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

Remarks

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/07/2008 has been entered.
2. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 04/07/2008.
3. Claims 1, 3, 11, 13, 21 and 23 have been amended.
4. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-21 and 23-30 remain pending and have been examined.

Response to Amendment

5. The Applicants' amendment filed on 04/07/2008 changes the scope of independent claims 1, 11 and 21. Therefore, a new ground of rejection is applied.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-21 and 23-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable under Shaylor (Shaylor et al., US 6,446, 084) in view of Matula (Matula et al., US 6,938,062)

Claim 1:

Shaylor discloses a method comprising:

- receiving a code address (current IP- instruction pointer) (see for example, Fig.3, step 302 Retrieve Byte Code From Current IP and related text; also see col.3, lines 9-23)
- partitioning a global method lookup table into smaller and distributed versions for said local memory sub-region (see for example, Fig.2 item 216 "Method Table", item 220 "Filed Table" and related text).
- querying method metadata for said code address by limiting a search scope within a local memory sub-region of said code address (constant pool) (see for example, Fig.3, step 306 "Invoke Byte Code –Might Require Constant Pool Lookup" and related text; also see col.5, lines 9-23; further see Fig.6A-C and related text).

But does not explicitly disclose partitioning a global method lookup table into smaller and distributed versions of said global method lookup table for said local memory sub-region of said code address, said smaller and distributed versions including only those methods whose codes are allocated within the local memory sub-region.

However, Matula in the same analogous art of table lookup, discloses a method for partitioning a large direct lookup table into a plurality of smaller direct lookup tables. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Matula's method to further partition Shaylor's method table into smaller ones and focus the search/query operation in the smaller table so as to save search time by only search the smaller table in local memory space. One would have been motivated to do so to allow for convenient selection of the smaller tables and further save search time and reduce power as suggested by Matula (see for example, col.4, lines 54-59, "...in the present method of the invention for partitioning a large direct lookup table into a plurality of smaller direct lookup tables. The method of the present invention provides partitions that allow for convenient selection of the smaller tables that are to be enable so as to both reduce power and obtain greater lossless compression.")

Claim 3:

Shaylor also discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising:

- maintaining a limited set of methods for which codes are allocated within said local memory sub-region for said smaller and distributed version of the global method lookup table (see for example, Fig.2 item 216 "Method Table" and related text; also see col.4, lines 35-39).

Claim 4:

Shaylor further discloses the method of claim 1, comprising:

- providing a continuous space to a memory block to locate method metadata (see for example, Fig.2, item 216 "Method Table and related text); and
- placing block information (constant pool) regarding said memory block (see for example, Fig.2, item 206 "Constant Pool" and related text; also see col.6, lines 9-21)

But does not explicitly disclose placing block information at a beginning of the continuous space. However, it is well known in the computer art that put two related memory blocks together can save time for memory access from one memory block to another by reducing the pointer jump distance. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to put block information at the beginning of the memory block to save memory access time and further improving the lookup efficiency.

Claim 5:

Shaylor further discloses the method of claim 4 above, comprising:

- providing a pointer (class pointer) to a distributed method lookup table from said block information (see for example, col.6, lines 8-21, "The system uses the class pointer, the method name and the type information to lookup a method pointer in method table).

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Claim 6:

Shaylor further discloses the method of claim 5, wherein table entries of said distributed method lookup table represent code objects created in said memory block (see for example, fig.2, item 218 "Bytecode" and related text: also see col.4, lines 35-29, "This includes bytecode 218, which includes a string of bytes to be executed by virtual machine...").

Claim 7:

Shaylor also discloses the method of claim 5, further comprising:

- providing a virtual machine (see for example, col.4, lines 35-29, "This includes bytecode 218, which includes a string of bytes to be executed by virtual machine..."); and
- providing a garbage collector for said virtual machine to maintain said distributed method lookup table (see for example, col.5, lines 4-8, "In particular, the garbage collector must be informed of the possible pointers in the constant pool").

Claim 8:

Shaylor discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising:

- maintaining allocation bits (method pointer) with each bit mapped to a legal object address (actual bytecodes) in heap space (see for example, col.4, lines 35-39); and

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- using said allocation bits to identify a code object that encloses an arbitrary code address (see for example, col.6, lines19-21, “Finally, the system returns this method pointer; also see Table 1, code example for detail implementation).

Claim 9:

Shaylor also discloses the method of claim 8, further comprising:

- partitioning the allocation bits into subsets for individual memory blocks (see for example, Fig.2, item 216 “Method Table”, item 220 “Field Table” and related text).

Claim 10:

Shaylor also discloses the method of claim 9, further comprising:

- receiving an instruction pointer pointing into some internal address of the code (see for example, Fig.3, step 302 “Retrieve Byte Code From Current IP); and
- locating said code object based on said instruction pointer (see for example, col.5, lines 12-15, “virtual machine 116 first retrieves a byte code from the current instruction pointer (IP)...”).

Claims 11 and 13-20:

Claims 11-20 are system version for performing the claimed method as in claims 1 and 3-10 addressed above, wherein all claimed limitation functions have been addressed and/or set forth above and certainly a computer system would need to run and/or practice such function steps disclosed by reference above. Thus, they also would have been obvious.

Claims 21 and 23-30

Claims 21 and 23-30 are computer program products/article version of the claimed method, wherein all claimed limitation functions have been addressed in claims 1 and 3-10 above respectively. It is well known in the computer art that such method steps can be implemented as computer program and can be practiced and /or stored on a computer operable media. Thus, they also would have been obvious in view of reference teachings above.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zheng Wei whose telephone number is (571) 270-1059 and Fax number is (571) 270-2059. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-15:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (571) 272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571- 272-1000.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Z. W./

Examiner, Art Unit 2192

/Tuan Q. Dam/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2192